

**REMARKS**

This amendment and response under 37 C.F.R. 1.143 is in response to an election/restriction requirement (Paper No. 06072005) mailed June 8, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicant has amended claims 8 and 19 by this amendment.

In Paper No.06072005 mailed on 8 June 2005, the Examiner imposed a requirement for election of species under 37 C.F.R. §1.146, from among the following three “patentably distinct species of the claimed invention” identified by the Examiner:

1. species A: the reinforcing ribs being hollow;
2. species B: the reinforcing ribs being a polygon; and
3. species C: the reinforcing ribs being zig-zag in shape.

Applicant provisionally elects species A drawn to the hollow reinforcing ribs with traverse. To the best of Applicant’s understanding, claims 1-7, 10-14, 16 and 18-20 are all readable on Species A.

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement for the following reasons. Applicant submits that Paper No. 06072005 is entirely incomplete and inadequate and does not conform to proper U.S. Patent Office practice. In Paper No. 06072005, the Examiner states that species (A) through (C) are distinct without explaining why. This is in direct violation of MPEP 816 which clearly states that “A mere statement of conclusion is inadequate. The reasons upon which the conclusion is based

should be given.”

Applicant also submits that Paper No. 06072005 is entirely inadequate in that the Examiner never provided reasons for insisting upon restriction as is required in MPEP 817 and MPEP 808.02. This includes an explanation of either separate classification, separate status in the art, divergent subject matter, divergent fields of search etc. Because none of this is discussed in Paper No. 06072005, the restriction requirement is incomplete and must be withdrawn.

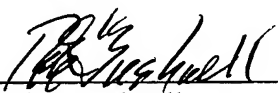
Applicant objects to and traverses the election requirement on the grounds that the subject matter of the three species overlap. In addition, the mandatory fields of search for the three embodiments are coextensive. Finally, it appears that the election requirement is being imposed merely for administrative convenience and such a basis for imposition of such a requirement has been prohibited in previous decisions of the Commissioner.

Applicant has amended claims 8 and 19 by this amendment to correct for minor errors.

A fee of \$120.00 is incurred by filing of a petition for a one month extension of time, set to expire on 8 August 2005. Applicant's check drawn to the order of Commissioner accompanies this Amendment. Should the check become lost, be deficient in payment, or should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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